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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
23 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 4:00 PM EST)

1. The critical question remains whether Greece or Turkey can be persuaded to take the first step in order to avoid armed conflict. The essential problem is that Turkey insists on seeing concrete evidence that the Greeks will remove their illegal troops from Cyprus before Turkey halts its military buildup. Greece, on the other hand, argues that Turkish military pressures must be reversed before the removal of troops can begin.

2. The Greek government has sent its response to the Turkish 5-point proposal presented to Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis yesterday. The Greeks acknowledge their willingness to accept "in principle" the withdrawal from Cyprus of all foreign forces, other than those of the United Nations. This acceptance is a step forward, but the Greek note adds that "it is an indispensable prerequisite that all measures recently taken which are of a menacing and provocative nature should cease and be recalled." King Constantine also firmly stated to the US Ambassador that Greek action on the removal of troops would have to be matched by comparable Turkish de-escalation.

3. We do not know if this Greek response has been transmitted to the Turkish Foreign Minister. The Vance mission is now in Ankara, and plans to leave tonight for Athens. Other diplomatic efforts are continuing in an attempt to persuade each of the governments to take some small step toward defusing the crisis.

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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5. It has just been learned, however, that the Turkish government has decided to accept the offer of good offices by NATO Secretary-General Brosio. Brosio had previously told US officials that the one condition of his offer was that neither side initiate hostilities during his efforts. If this condition was relayed to, and accepted by the Turks, it would be an encouraging indication that the Turkish government is willing to delay military action against Cyprus.

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7. Pressures for military intervention continue to be high in Turkey. Most Turkish papers reports a strong pro-war mood among the Turkish people. The US Embassy reports that even more educated and sophisticated Turks dwell on the importance of Turkish national honor, and believe that Turkey must teach the Greeks a lesson. Anti-American demonstrators today stoned the USIA building in Ankara, and the Vance mission had to divert its landing to avoid a group of student demonstrators.

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the Turkish Navy has begun to take operational control of commercial vessels to transport landing craft, and have already begun to load some of the commercial ships. USDAO in Ankara comments that the expense associated with utilization of these ships is another indication that Navy plans still envision large scale amphibious operations. Turkish overflights of Cyprus continued today.

9. The Greek government is disturbed about the scheduled departure of a ship loaded with MAP equipment from Piraeus to Turkey. They state that Greek opinion cannot absorb this. The US has decided, however, that in this delicate situation they cannot cancel a previously scheduled delivery.

10. Further information indicates that President Makarios had decided that he cannot take the initiative in sending a unilateral note urging restraint on all parties and suggesting phased disarmament on the island. His only suggested alternative was to have the UN Secretary General call for a four-power conference to discuss demilitarization and other aspects of the problem. Makarios will not suggest this to the Secretary-General but would respond favorably if such an idea were put forth.

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